

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE DUTY OF THE MARIANAS SCOUTS

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 31, 2000*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2000, a ceremony will take place in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands honoring and recognizing the service of a small group of civilian men who, during WWII on the island of Saipan, willingly put themselves in harm's way to ensure that American soldiers could defeat the occupying Japanese military forces. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Resident Representative, the Honorable Juan Babauta, has been key in making sure the sacrifice and service of these men are recognized by the United States. I commend Mr. Babauta for his persistence and wish to submit his statement honoring the "Marianas Scouts" for the RECORD.

#### AT LAST AMERICA REMEMBERS MARIANAS SCOUTS

They helped American Marines find their way on unfamiliar ground during one of World War II's fiercest battles. And once the Japanese-held island of Saipan was "secure" they continued to help: rooting out the hundreds of enemy soldiers who remained a menace, lurking in the dense jungle and hidden deep in limestone caves.

But when the fighting was finally over, the fifty Chamorro and Carolinian men who had volunteered to join the US military after the invasion of Saipan were forgotten by the US. They received no discharges, no campaign ribbons, none of the benefits accorded other US veterans. Only their families and friends remembered the valor of these "Marine Scouts."

On Monday, January 31, at least America will remember.

In a ceremony to be attended by Brigadier General R.E. Parker, Commanding General of the US Marine Corps Base in Hawaii and personal representative of Marine Corps Commandant General James L. Jones, the twenty-one surviving Scouts and the memory of those who have already passed on will finally receive the recognition they deserve.

General Parker will present the Scouts or their survivors with the ribbons and medals acknowledging service in the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign and commemorating Victory in the World War II. The men will also receive their official discharges at the rank of corporal.

The Marianas Campaign of 1944 was critical to the outcome of World War II. The fall of the Marianas led directly to the fall of the government in Tokyo, because now America was within bomber range of the Japanese home islands. That strategic significance was reflected in the ferocity of the fighting here and the tenacity of the Japanese defenders.

Even after the battle of Saipan was official over and the Japanese military command had surrendered, still there were hundreds of Japanese soldiers hidden in the dense jungle, squeezed into pockets of limestone in the

hillsides. At night they materialized to harass; by day their sniper shots struck without warning. Americans continued to die.

The US Commander of the Military Government decided that local men, who best knew the local terrain and spoke Japanese, could best track down these holdouts.

Fifty Chamorros and Carolinians were selected and put under the command of the 6th Provisional Military Police Battalion. They were issued Marine Corps uniforms, trained to use rifles and grenades, and instructed in hand-to-hand fighting.

Once on duty, platoons of these local Marine Scouts, as they were known, combed Mt. Tapotchau, the hills of Laulau and Kagman, and the ridges of Marpi, exposing and capturing Japanese. The Scouts also took part in the American expeditions to round up the hundreds of Japanese troops on the islands of Pagan and Maug.

The service of these men of the Marianas saved American lives. But their service was never fully acknowledged.

It took six years of work, beginning with exhaustive research in military archives at the National Archives, the Marine Corps Historical Center, and the Naval Archives, through some 50,000 pages of war records and diaries, to uncover the few sentences attesting to the Scouts' service. For the men themselves had no paper record, only their memories.

Then, the materials had to be presented to the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board for its scrutiny. On September 30, 1999, two years after the original submission, the decision came down:

"In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 95-202 and upon the recommendation of the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board, the Secretary of the Air Force, acting as the Executive Agent of the Secretary of Defense, determines . . . the service of . . . three scouts/guides, Miguel Tenorio, Benedicto Taisacan, and Cristino Dela Cruz, who assisted the U.S. Marines in the offensive operations against the Japanese on the Northern Mariana Islands from June 19, 1994, through September 2, 1945, shall be considered 'active duty' for purposes of all laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Additionally, the service of a group described as 'the approximately 50 Chamorro and Carolinian former, native policemen who received military training in the Donnay area of central Saipan and were placed under the command of Lt. Casino of the 6th Provisional Military Police Battalion to accompany United States Marines on active, combat-patrol activity from August 19, 1945, to September 2, 1945,' shall be considered 'active duty' for purposes of all laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs."

Now, on January 31, the Scouts will receive their discharges, medals, and ribbons.

Among those who should be recognized for their efforts to make this day possible are: Mr. Joseph C. Reyes, President of the US Armed Forces Veterans Association in the Northern Marianas, who was tireless in pursuit of this goal; former members of the Northern Marianas Legislature Crispin I. Deleon Guerrero and Vicente C. Guerrero, who would not let our men be forgotten; both Joseph Palacios, the former Director of the CNMI Veterans Office, and Jesus C. Muna,

the present Director, who have been most supportive; Mr. Pete Callahan, Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457, who helped mobilize national recognition; Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, a vet himself, who weighed in with the Pentagon when we needed him; and the Northern Marianas Legislature, under the leadership of Speaker Diego T. Benavente and President Paul A. Manglona, which passed two resolutions on behalf of our World War II veterans, spurred to act by Representatives Frank G. Cepeda and David M. Apatang. Major Harry Blanco, should also be recognized; he extended PX privileges to the Scouts, even before they were declared to be vets; a much appreciated act of faith.

#### THE ROSTER OF SCOUTS

Ignacio Reyes Ada, Antonio M. Aguon, Antonio Angailen, Pedro SN. Attao, Santiago Miyasaki Babauta, Antonio Manahane Benavente, Juan V. Benavente, Daniel T. Borja, Gregorio Flores Borja, Gregorio Camacho Cabrera, Juan Camacho Cabrera, Albert S. Camacho, Lorenzo Tudela Camacho, Cristino S. Dela Cruz, Joaquin Duenas Dela Cruz, Bernardo C. Deleon Guerrero, Joaquin C. Deleon Guerrero, Jose S. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo Diaz Deleon Guerrero, Serafin Borja Kaipat, Juan Limes, Rafael C. Mafnas, Jose Blas Magofna, Miguel Blaz Magofna, Pedro Mettao, Nicolas Quidachai Muna, Francisco Nekai, Juan Quitugua Norita, Isidro Limes Ogarto, Francisco C. Palacios, Joaquin B. Pangelian, Juan San Nicolas Pangelian, Edward M. Peter, Jose Roberto Quitano, Benigno A. Rabauliman, Antonio T. Rogolofoi, Isidro R. Rogopes, Vicente T. Rosario, Ignacio Mangarero Sablan, Segundo Tudela Sablan, Heriberto San Nicolas, Pedro F. Sakisat, Felipe Agulto Salas, Gofredo Aguon Sanchez, Juan A. Sanchez, Guillermo P. Saures, Felipe Mazinnis Seman, Juan Malus Tagabuel, Benedicto Satur Taisacan, Antonio Camacho Tenorio, Antonio P. Tenorio, Vicente Olaitiman Tamen, Miguel Pangelinan Tenorio, Pedro Peter Teregeyo, and Manuel Seman Villagomez.

#### UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 31, 2000*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight what is arguably the most unfair provision in the U.S. Tax Code: the marriage tax penalty. I want to thank you for your long term interest in bringing parity to the tax burden imposed on working married couples compared to a couple living together outside of marriage.

This month President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address outlining many of the things he will spend the budget surplus on. House Republicans want to preserve 100% of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and Medicare and use the non-Social Security surplus for paying down the debt and to bring fairness to the tax code.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A surplus provided by the bipartisan budget agreement which cut waste, put America's fiscal house in order, and held Washington's feet to the fire to balance the budget.

While President Clinton parades a long list of new spending totaling \$72 billion in new programs—we believe that a top priority after saving Social Security and paying down the national debt should be returning the budget surplus to America's families as additional middle-class tax relief.

This Congress has given more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half century.

I think the issue of the marriage penalty can best be framed by asking these questions: Do Americans feel it's fair that our tax code im-

poses a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel it's fair that the average married working couple pays almost \$1,400 more in taxes than a couple with almost identical income living together outside of marriage? Is it right that our tax code provides an incentive to get divorced?

In fact, today the only form one can file to avoid the marriage tax penalty is paperwork for divorce. And that is just wrong!

Since 1969, our tax laws have punished married couples when both spouses work. For no other reason than the decision to be joined in holy matrimony, more than 21 million couples a years are penalized. They pay more in taxes than they would if they were single. Not only is the marriage penalty unfair, it's wrong

that our tax code punishes society's most basic institution. The marriage tax penalty exacts a disproportionate toll on working women and lower income couples with children. In many cases it is a working women's issue.

Let me give you an example of how the marriage tax penalty unfairly affects middle class married working couples.

For example, a machinist, at a Caterpillar manufacturing plant in my home district of Joliet, makes \$30,500 a year in salary. His wife is a tenured elementary school teacher, also bringing home \$30,500 a year in salary. If they would both file their taxes as singles, as individuals, they would pay 15%.

#### MARRIAGE PENALTY EXAMPLE

	Machinist	School Teacher	Couple	H.R. 6
Adjusted Gross Income .....	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$63,000	\$63,000
Less Personal Exemption and Standard Deduction .....	6,950	6,950	12,500	<sup>1</sup> 13,900
Taxable Income .....	24,550	24,550	50,500	49,100
	(x .15)	(x .15)	(Partial x.28)	(x.15)
Tax Liability .....	\$3,682.5	\$3,682.5	\$8,635	\$7,365
Marriage Penalty .....			\$1,270	
Relief .....				\$1,270

<sup>1</sup> Singles times 2.

But if they chose to live their lives in holy matrimony, and now file jointly, their combined income of \$61,000 pushes them into a higher tax bracket of 28 percent, producing a tax penalty of \$1,400 in higher taxes.

On average, America's married working couples pay \$1,400 more a year in taxes than individuals with the same incomes. That's serious money. Millions of married couples are still stinging from April 15th's tax bite and more married couples are realizing that they are suffering the marriage tax penalty.

Particularly if you think of it in terms of a down payment on a house or a car, one years tuition at a local community college, or several months worth of quality child care at a local day care center.

To that end, U.S. Representative DAVID MCINTOSH (R-IN) and U.S. Representative PAT DANNER (D-MO) and I have authored H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act.

H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act will increase the tax brackets (currently at 15% for the first \$24,650 for singles, whereas married couples filing jointly pay 15% on the first \$41,200 of their taxable income) to twice that enjoyed by singles; H.R. 6 would extend a married couple's 15% tax bracket to \$49,300. Thus, married couples would enjoy an additional \$8,100 in taxable income subject to the low 15% tax rate as opposed to the current 28% tax rate and would result in up to \$1,215 in tax relief.

Additionally the bill will increase the standard deduction for married couples (currently \$6,900) to twice that of singles (currently at \$4,150). Under H.R. 6 the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly would be increased to \$8,300.

H.R. 6 enjoys the bipartisan support of 223 co-sponsors along with family groups, including: American Association of Christian Schools, American Family Association, Christian Coalition, Concerned Women for America, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Family Research Council, Home School Legal Defense Association, the National Association of Evangelicals and the Traditional Values Coalition.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union address when the President declared emphatically that, quote “the era of big government is over.”

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government.

But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business.

And what better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math.

It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it.

What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty . . . a bipartisan priority.

Speaker HASTERT and House Republicans have made eliminating the marriage tax penalty a top priority. In fact, we plan to move legislation in the next few weeks.

Last year, President Clinton and Vice-President GORE vetoed our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty for almost 28 million married working people. The Republican effort would have provided about \$120 billion in marriage tax relief. Unfortunately, President Clinton and Vice President GORE said they would rather spend the money on new government programs than eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

This year we ask President Clinton and Vice-President GORE to join with us and sign into law a stand alone bill to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

The greatest accomplishment of the Republican Congress this past year was our success in protecting the Social Security Trust Fund and adopting a balanced budget that did not spend one dime of Social Security—the first balanced budget in over 30 years that did not raid Social Security.

Let's eliminate the Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

#### KOREAN WAR ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with TOM EWING, my colleague from Illinois, as an original cosponsor of this legislation recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean war.

On June 25, 1950, Communist North Korea initiated the conflict by invading South Korea with approximately 135,000 troops. President Harry S. Truman and the United Nations drew a line in the sand, committing ground, air, and naval forces. Approximately 5,720,000 members of the Armed Forces served during the Korean war. These men and women deserve our gratitude and respect.

Unfortunately, there was a time when people referred to the Korean war as the Forgotten War. The decisive struggles of this century have been the wars against totalitarianism. The World War II generation faced the Axis powers with honor and great courage. That same honor and courage were displayed in a long series of wars and struggles that led to the fall of the Soviet empire. Korea was the initial confrontation of the nuclear age.